

What is claimed is:

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1. A non-dripping, flame retardant, fluoropolymeric composition comprising:
  - (a) a fluoropolymeric base polymer; and
  - (b) a nanoclay additive.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said fluoropolymeric base polymer is selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fluorocarbons, fluorinated ethylene/propylene (FEP) fluorocarbons, perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) fluorocarbons, ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) fluoropolymers, polyvinylidene (PVDF) fluoropolymers, ethylene chlorotrifluoroethylene (ECTFE) fluoropolymers, and fluoro-chlorinated homopolymers, copolymers and terpolymers.

3. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:
  - (c) an olefinic polymer.

4. The composition of claim 3 wherein said olefinic polymer is selected from the group consisting of very low density polyethylene (VLDPE), low density polyethylene (LDPE), linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), high density polyethylene (HDPE), polypropylene (PP), and ethylene propylene rubber (EPR).

5. The composition of claim 5 wherein the group from which said olefinic polymer is selected further consists of ethylene-based homopolymers, copolymers and terpolymers.

6. The composition of claim 3 wherein said at least one olefinic polymer is crosslinked.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein said at least one olefinic polymer is crosslinked using an organic peroxide.

8. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:

(c) one of an acetate resin and an acrylate resin.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein said one of an acetate resin and an acrylate resin is selected from the group consisting of ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA), ethylene ethyl acrylate (EEA),  
5 ethylene methyl acrylate (EMA), and ethylene butyl acrylate (EBA).

10. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:

(c) polyvinylchloride resin.

11. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:

- (c) an olefinic polymer; and
- (d) one of an acetate resin and an acrylate resin.

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12. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:

- (c) an olefinic polymer; and
- (d) polyvinylchloride resin.

13. The composition of claim 1 further comprising:

- (c) an olefinic polymer;
- (d) one of an acetate resin and an acrylate resin; and
- (e) polyvinylchloride resin.

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14. The composition of claim 1 wherein said nanoclay additive is selected from the group consisting of synthetic silicate montmorillonites, natural layered silicate montmorillonites and a layered alumina-silicate.

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15. The composition of claim 14 wherein the individual platelets of said nanoclay additive are approximately 1 micron in diameter.

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17. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a filler selected from the group consisting of metal hydrates, oxides, carbonates, talcs, clays, molybdates, borates, stannates, carbon blacks, silicates, and phosphates.

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19. A method for preparing an exfoliated thermoplastic elastomer blend of a fluoropolymer and a nanocomposite comprising dynamically mixing said fluoropolymer and said nanocomposite in a ratio of from about 99:1 to about 50:50 parts by weight, respectively.

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